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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/780,578

02/19/2004

Hiroshi Hidaka

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02/17/2006

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

SUITE 700

1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

DUONG, HUNG V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,578

Applicant(s)

HIDAKA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Hung v. Duong

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

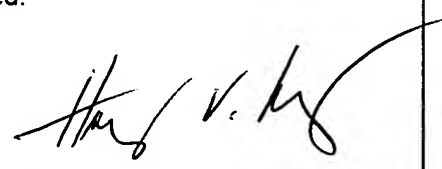
- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/19/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____



HUNG VAN DUONG
BY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reyes et al (US 2004/0018918).

Regarding claims 1-6, Reyes et al disclose a console unit 56 comprising: a substrate extending along a virtual plane; a support member 34 extending rearward from a front end and defining a surface receiving the substrate; and a console 56 connected to the front end of the support member 34 for relative rotation around a rotation axis intersecting the virtual plane, the console 56 being electrically connected to the substrate wherein a connector is attached to a rear end of the support member 34, the connector protruding rearward from the rear end of the support member 34 along the virtual plane wherein the connector is mounted on the substrate; a connection board disposed in the enclosure 28 in an attitude intersecting the virtual plane; a first connector located on the connection board; and a second connector located on the

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substrate for connection to the first connector wherein the enclosure defines an inner space extending from an opening formed in the enclosure toward the connection board.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Engel et al (US Pat. 3,768,377).

Regarding claims 8-13, Engel et al disclose an operation button unit 35 comprising: a plate member 11; an operation button 35 spaced from a surface of the plate member 11; a thrust member 32 connected to the operation button 35, the thrust member 32 penetrating through a bore defined in the plate member 11; and an elastic transformable member continuous with the plate member 11 and the operation button 35 based on integral formation; a protrusion 36, 37 protruding from the surface of the plate member 11; a backing member 21 contacting a back surface of the plate member 11 so as to hold the plate member 11 against the housing, and a through hole 25 defined in the backing member 21 and receiving the thrust member 32 wherein the backing member 21 is detachably attached to the housing wherein a protrusion 36, 37 is integrally formed on the surface of the plate member 11 so as to protrude from the surface of the plate member 11 wherein the backing member 21 is detachably attached to the housing.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to show that storage device units are incorporated within the space, the storage device units being connected to the connection board and arranged in parallel with one another.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Okumura (US 2005/0097583) teaches complex electronic device having circuit board for operation button control.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Duong whose telephone number is (571) 272-2041. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 to 5:00PM.

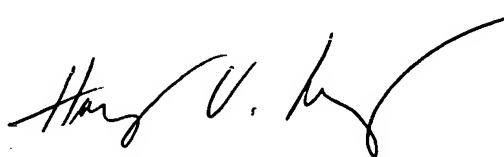
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956

HVD

02/16/06.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hung V. Duong', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Hung Duong
Primary Examiner.